

# Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

**December 18, 2008**

## Synopsis

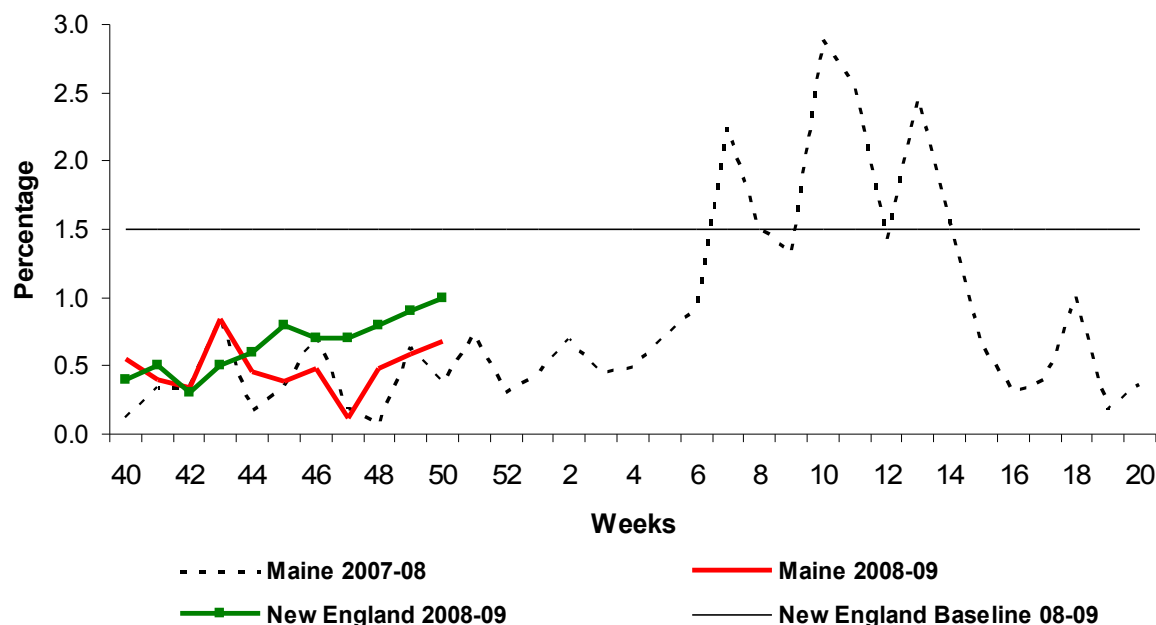
Maine had its first cases of PCR confirmed influenza this week. Two cases of Influenza A (type H1) tested positive at the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). These cases included a youth from Cumberland County and a young adult from Androscoggin County. During the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (MMWR week 50)\*, Maine reported sporadic influenza activity.

## Moderate Disease Surveillance

### *Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)*

During the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 0.7% of outpatient visits reported by nine Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI is defined as fever ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  /  $\geq 37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) AND cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 1.0% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 49. Maine remains below the New England states average, as well as the New England baseline.

### Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness -- Maine, 2007-09



# New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

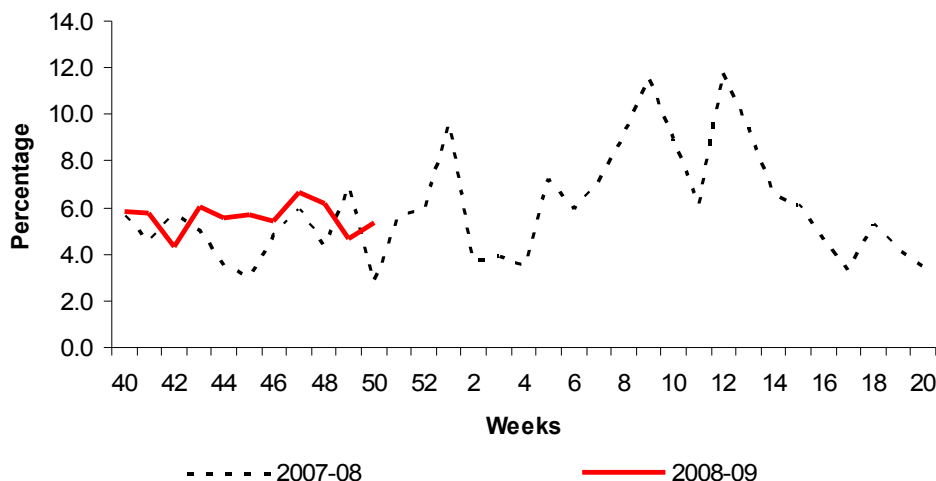
\* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

## Severe Disease Surveillance

### *Hospital inpatients*

During the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 5.4% of hospital admissions reported by three hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza. This is consistent with previous weeks.

#### **Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza -- Maine, 2007-09**



### *Laboratory Reporting*

During the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, ten samples were submitted for testing to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). Two samples (20%) tested positive for influenza A (H1) virus. To date, 49 samples have been submitted, two (4%) were positive for influenza.

During the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 34 samples were submitted for testing to two private reference laboratories, none tested positive for influenza. A combined total of 257 specimens from two private reference laboratories have been submitted for respiratory testing to date. None tested positive for influenza. Three samples tested positive for RSV. To date, eight samples were positive for RSV, and two samples were positive for parainfluenza 3.

During the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, three positive rapid tests were voluntarily reported to Maine CDC's disease reporting line by various health care providers. All three were positive for influenza A. A combined total of 13 positive rapid tests have been reported this season. 11 were positive for influenza A, and two were positive for influenza B. Rapid tests are often used in clinical practice and these results contribute to the determination of the state influenza activity code reported to the federal CDC.

### *Outbreaks*

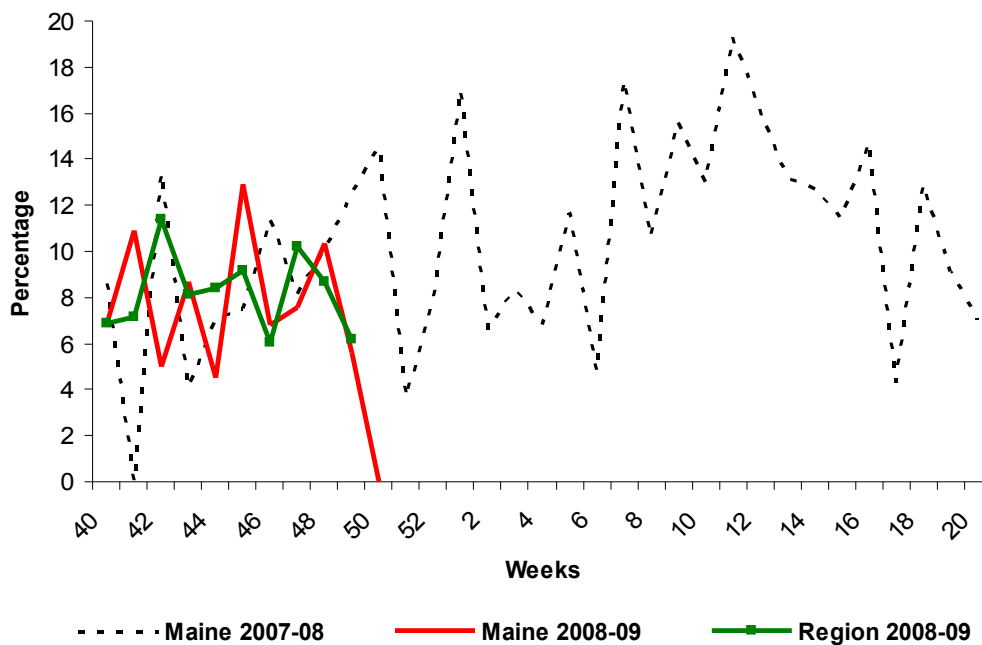
During the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, no outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in Maine. To date, one outbreak has been reported.

## Fatalities Surveillance

### Death Certificates

During the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 0.0 % of deaths reported by one city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza. The sharp decrease seen is mostly likely due to lack of reporting, not to a true decrease in pneumonia and influenza deaths in the state of Maine.

### Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza – Maine, New England and the United States, 2007-09



### Pediatric Fatalities

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Maine have been reported this season.

### National Influenza Activity

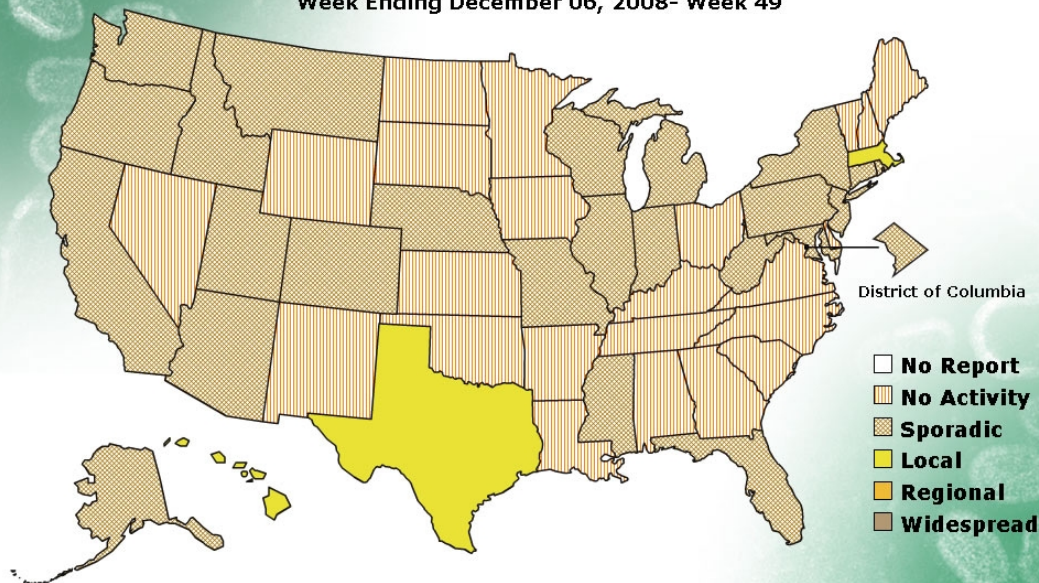
State health departments report the estimated level of influenza activity in their states each week. States report influenza activity as: 1) no activity, 2) sporadic, 3) local, 4) regional, or 5) widespread (definitions of these levels can be found at: [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm)). Maine reported sporadic activity for the week ending December 13<sup>th</sup> (week 50).

# FLUVIEW



**A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division**  
**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists\***

**Week Ending December 06, 2008- Week 49**



\*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.